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"Unconventional Warfare"

The debacle of Cuba shows that we are far from being masters of unconventional warfare, or at least that part of it in which a civilized nation can participate—training exiles to recapture their homeland from native tyrants and inspiring and utilizing patriotic underground forces to rise and join the assault.

That is one reason why Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, who retired as Army Chief of Staff in 1959 in frustration because his limited warfare views were not accepted, has been recalled to active duty by President Kennedy. He will review United States intelligence and paramilitary and guerrilla warfare capabilities in the wake of the setback of the handful of patriots who failed to establish a beachhead in Cuba last week.

Since the General has been asked to report in two months, presumably there will be no serious effort to recoup the disaster immediately.

The President forecast the Taylor assignment in his address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors last week, when he said: "We intend to profit from this lesson. We intend to re-examine and reorient our forces of all kinds, our tactics and other institutions here in this community. We intend to intensify our efforts for a struggle in many ways more difficult than war, where disappointments will often accompany us. For I am convinced that we in this country and in the free world possess the necessary resources and the skill and the added strength that comes from a belief in the freedom

of man.

Gen. Taylor, who argued futilely that the doctrine of massive retaliation with nuclear weapons will not deter wars and advocated the value of limited warfare, will now examine all the agencies of the Government that can be utilized in paramilitary and guerrilla warfare. They include especially the Defense, State and Justice Departments, as well as the Central Intelligence Agency. The most significant thing about his assignment is that it means we will sharpen the tools of unconventional warfare, by which communism has made so much headway, in order to try to stop its advance. The United States will fight fire with fire.

This editorial also appeared in the following other newspapers:

HAZELTON STANDARD SENTINEL,

PA. - APR. 27, 1961

JAMESTOWN POST JOURNAL, N.Y. - MAY 11, 1961

GAINESVILLE SUN, FLA. - APR 27, 1961

GRAND FORKS HERALD, N.D. - MAY 5, 1961